

ALFRED G. HATFIELD.

MAY 7, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEDDES, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1368.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1368) for the relief of Alfred G. Hatfield, having considered the same and accompanying papers, submit the following report:

The committee find the facts to be as stated in House Report No. 1682, Forty-seventh Congress, first session, which said report is hereto annexed and made a part of this report, and is as follows:

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Alfred G. Hatfield, with accompanying documents, respectfully report:

The petitioner is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the District of Columbia. He claims relief as the son and only heir at law of John Hatfield, who died in the city of Washington in the year 1874.

It appears from the papers referred with the bill that on or about the 1st day of June, 1862, John Hatfield was employed by James A. Gallagher, then colonel commanding the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry Volunteers, in the military service of the Government of the United States, to act as veterinary surgeon for said regiment. At the time of the employment of John Hatfield by Colonel Gallagher veterinary surgeons were not allowed by law; but from affidavits of officers of the regiment and others it appears that the necessity existed for the employment of one. There were eight or nine hundred horses in the regiment, and many of them were] affected with distemper and other diseases, and required the care and skill of a competent veterinary surgeon: John Hatfield, as such, had charge of all the horses of said regiment, under instructions from and the authority of Colonel Gallagher, from the date of his employment as aforesaid until the 3d day of March, 1863, a period of nine months, and he was paid nothing for his services rendered during that time, although the promise of pay was often repeated by Colonel Gallagher. From papers on file in the War Department it appears that John Hatfield, in December, 1863, presented his claim for recognition and pay as veterinary surgeon for nine months; that he had acted as such under the authority of Colonel Gallagher. There was then no law authorizing the employment of veterinary surgeons, and his claim was properly rejected; but on a review of the facts a warrant as veterinary surgeon was issued in his favor January 2, 1864, to date March 3, 1863, the date veterinary surgeons were authorized by law. From the 3d of March, 1863, until he was discharged, he received \$75 per month, that being the compensation for veterinary surgeons provided by the act of Congress approved on the said 3d day of March, 1862, known as the "enrollment act." But it being clear that he rendered valuable and efficient services during the nine months he acted under the authority of Colonel Gallagher, saving the Government from great loss, and that the necessity existed for his employment, your committee are of opinion that he should be paid a reasonable compensation therefor, and we are further of opinion that \$75 per month is fair and reasonable.

The committee therefore report the accompanying bill, appropriating the sum of \$675, and recommend its passage.

The committee therefore adopt said House report as the report of this committee, and report the accompanying bill (H. R. 1368) for his relief, with recommendation that it pass.

